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Scientists from the Ukrainian Central Scientific Research Institute for Construction Materials and plant production workers have been conducting successful experiments to fire brick in tunnel kilns without any preliminary drying. Regulation and control of the firing process are expected to be made automatic. Seven automatic control installations are to be erected by the end of 1955.

The Ukrainian SSR is now producing only a small quantity of silicate wall materials. The new Five-Year Plan provides for construction of six silicate brick plants having an annual over-all capacity of 360 million bricks. By using autoclaves, the new plants will be able to produce brick, structural products made from concrete and reinforced concrete, and various other building materials from local raw materials.

Although rich deposits of granite, marble, and feldspar stone are found in Dnepropetrovskaya, Nikolayevskaya, Zhitomirskaya, and Zakarpatskaya oblasts, these stones are extracted and processed only in limited amounts, primarily because of poor mechanization.

The production of structural ceramics has been delayed somewhat because of the inactivity of the planning organizations. According to data of the Administration on Architectural Works of the Council of Ministers Ukrainian SSR, 178 housing and civil construction plans providing for an over-all volume of 1.9 million cubic meters of construction were investigated and recommended for approval in the first 6 months of 1952. However, provision for building perforated brick walls was made in only three of the plans, constituting an over-all volume of 67,200 cubic meters.

Until now [1952], only two Kiev plants have been producing structural and architectural ceramics. In such Ukrainian industrial centers as Zaporozh'ye, Dnepropetrovsk, Stalino, Kherson, and others where large-scale construction is taking place, builders are unable to get facing materials and are forced to use costly, but short-lived, cement finishes. For this reason, the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Ukrainian SSR feels that provisions should be made in the new plan to produce architectural and structural ceramic products and wall materials in the large industrial centers of the Donets Basin and along the Dnepr River.

Because of the great demand for these products, the construction materials industry will soon have to start producing ceramic and glass sewer pipes, water pipes with a pressure up to 10 atmospheres, filtering pipes for irrigation systems, and various types of glass pipes to meet special demands and the normal demands of the villages in the republic.

The republic is now faced with the problem of producing heat insulating products made from local raw materials that do not require complicated waterproof and steamproof devices to aid in setting. Tests of the Ukrainian Central Scientific Research Institute for Construction Materials have shown that production of heat insulating products from local clays is quite possible.

During 1950 - 1951, the republic's construction materials industry received more than 5,000 units of equipment. In 1952, the industry will get an additional 4,200 units, and in 1953 it is expected that it will receive an even greater amount.

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